



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Philadelphia District

PROJECT FACT SHEET

**Schuylkill River Basin,
Wissahickon Creek Watershed,
Philadelphia & Montgomery Counties, PA**

September 2005

CONGRESSIONAL INFO: Sen. Specter, PA; Sen. Santorum, PA; Rep. Brady, PA-1;
Rep. Schwartz PA-13

AUTHORITY The Authority for this study is House Committee on Public Works and Transportation Resolution dated March 15, 1988.

LOCATION: Wissahickon Creek, a tributary of the Schuylkill River, is located in southeastern Pennsylvania approximately 13 miles upstream of the Schuylkill's confluence with the Delaware River in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

SPONSOR: The non-Federal sponsor for the feasibility phase of the study is the Philadelphia Water Department, Office of Watersheds.

STUDY/PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The lower Wissahickon Creek became urbanized in the late nineteenth century and the upper portion in the latter half of the twentieth century. A Reconnaissance Study was initiated in the Spring of 2002; its purpose was to assess the Federal interest for potential feasibility studies in the future. To help speed up the process, due to a high level of public interest an Expedited Reconnaissance Study was completed in accordance with Section 905(b) of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 1986 in August 2002. The 905(b) Study identified impaired areas of the watershed and potential solutions for each, including but not limited to ecosystem restoration, fish and wildlife habitat restoration, flood damage reduction, and allied purposes. Based on this study, it was determined that the primary problems within the Wissahickon watershed include stream flow variability, poor quality aquatic habitat, aquatic habitat degradation, flooding, and overall ecosystem imbalances. Various solutions to address these problems exist, and will be considered in depth during feasibility investigations. For example, riparian buffer enhancement, stream bank stabilization, natural stream channel restoration, construction of fish passages, wetland creation and restoration, and structural flood damage reduction measures will be considered for specific locations within the watershed. A Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement was negotiated with the project sponsor, the Philadelphia Water Department, and finalized in April 2004. This completed the reconnaissance phase and allowed the project to proceed into the subsequent Feasibility Study phase for the Philadelphia County portion of the study. Montgomery County has not yet expressed interest in conducting a feasibility study for their portion of the watershed.

WISSAHICKON CREEK WATERSHED *(continued)*

STUDY/PROJECT STATUS: FY04 funds were used to execute the Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement and initiate the feasibility study. FY2005 funds are being used to gather existing conditions data and screen alternatives.

FINANCIAL DATA:

<u>WORK ITEMS</u>	<u>FY 2003</u>	<u>FY 2004</u>	<u>FY2005</u>	<u>FY2006</u>
Federal	\$125,000	\$5,000	\$79,000	\$100,000
Non-Federal	\$0	In Kind Only	In Kind Only	In President's Budget
TOTAL	\$125,000	\$5,000	\$79,000	

ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS: An existing conditions environmental investigation was done and summarized as part of the expedited reconnaissance study's Section 905(b) (WRDA 86) analysis. More in-depth studies will occur as a part of the Feasibility Study.

CRITICAL ISSUES: Continued Funding of the Federal Cost Share.

PROJECT MANAGER: Terry Fowler
(215) 656-6575
theresa.a.fowler@usace.army.mil